

printer housing, the print module including a thermal print head and a platen roll cooperable with the print head for printing on the label web, the printer having a compartment for releasably holding the data entry device, the compartment having a top portion which is open to provide access to the display and the keys, and the compartment being open at the end of the front portion to slidably receive the data entry device through the open end.

24. The combination as defined in claim 23, wherein the compartment includes means for retaining the data entry device on the printer.

25. The combination as defined in claim 23, wherein the compartment has a pair of retaining flanges overlying the portable data entry device.

26. The combination as defined in claim 23, including means for latching the data entry device to the printer.

27. The combination as defined in claim 23, including a latch for latching the data entry device to the printer.

28. The combination as defined in claim 23, wherein the compartment is channel-shaped.

29. The combination as defined in claim 23, wherein the printer housing has a surface for receiving the user's hand.

30. In combination: a portable printer, comprising: an elongate printer housing having a front portion and a rear portion, the printer housing providing space at the rear portion for receiving a roll of a

label web, a print module at the rear portion of the printer housing, the print module including a thermal print head and a platen roll cooperable with the print head for printing on the label web, the printer having a compartment for releasably holding the data entry device, the compartment having a top portion which is open to provide access to a data entry device adapted to be received in the compartment, the compartment being open at the end of the front portion to slidably receive a data entry device through the open end.

31. The combination as defined in claim 30, wherein the compartment includes means for retaining a data entry device on the printer.

32. The combination as defined in claim 30, wherein the compartment has a pair of retaining flanges adapted to overlie a portable data entry device.

33. The combination as defined in claim 30, including means for latching a data entry device to the printer.

34. The combination as defined in claim 30, including a latch for latching a data entry device to the printer.

35. The combination as defined in claim 30, wherein the compartment is channel-shaped.

36. The combination as defined in claim 30, wherein the printer housing has a surface for receiving the user's hand.